

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS




## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

The topic of this month's meeting will be the ARRL's logbook of the world.

Logbook of The World - *LoTW* - is an exciting way for Radio Amateurs to confirm two-way contacts they have made and use the confirmations as credit toward various awards.

Because Logbook of The World uses double blind comparison, users cannot see what other users have uploaded unless there is a matched QSO. All files uploaded to LoTW are electronically signed by verified users. Logbook of The World maintains the integrity of the QSO verification process that has long been the hallmark of ARRL awards.

Logbook of The World is a very powerful system capable of collecting and matching QSO data from users all over the world. When properly configured, LoTW can accommodate a variety of operating situations, such as DXpeditions, previously held call signs and QSL managers.

By using digitally signed certificates with QSO date ranges and station locations for geographic information, Logbook of The World is able to accommodate clubs, QSL managers, DXpeditions, mobile and rover operators just as easily as it handles the individual user with one call sign and one location.

The presenter will be Chuck Termes, N6OJ, from Petaluma.

**Dues are due for 2011: \$15 per member/\$20 per family. See page 4.**



Chuck is a member of the Redwood Empire DX Assoc, an avid contester, especially using RTTY and DX enthusiast.

## FUTURE COMPASS PROBLEM

A [reversal of the Earth's magnetic poles](#) would certainly make life interesting for hams. The Geomagnetic North Pole is currently moving north under the Arctic Sea at about 40 km per year, dragging the auroral oval along with it and affecting polar path propagation. While it's been three-quarters of a million years since the last reversal, no one knows whether we are overdue for a flip-flop and the field strength seems quite strong. Pull up a lawn chair, pop open a cool drink, and watch - you never know! (Thanks, Graham VE3GTC, Dana AD5VC, and Ron W2IOL) (taken from the ARRL contest letter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## WORD TO THE WISE

**Attenuation** - reduction of signal level, particularly useful in receivers. As we go into the winter months of low-band activity, make sure your receiver isn't being overloaded by

strong local signals and atmospheric noise. You may be surprised at how much you can improve the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) by reducing input signal level and cutting back on the RF Gain. (taken from ARRL contest letter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Rep Walden Tweets in Morse Code

When US Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), learned December 16 that he would be chairing the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet when the 112th Congress convened in January, he let the world know about it by tweeting the news in Morse code. "Just the ham radio operator in me having fun," he posted to his official Web page. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over "interstate and foreign telecommunications including, but not limited to all telecommunication and information transmission by broadcast, radio, wire, microwave, satellite or other mode."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, was pleased to hear the news: "We're delighted that the subcommittee is in the hands of such a well-qualified chairman. Greg was an early cosponsor of [HR2160](#), and while he may not always be able to agree with every ARRL position, we know his door will always be open to us."

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Dr Radio Cited

In October 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Office visited Monroe, Michigan-based Doctor Radio's CB Shop to find that the store was selling, among other items, a radio that was described as "an Amateur Radio that could operate on CB frequencies" that was modified to operate above the approved power limits. As such, the FCC issued a *Citation* to the store on January 4 for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules. (from ARRL newsletter)

## Antenna Problem

When General Motors -- the world's second largest auto maker -- encountered a problem with the AM/FM antenna on its 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, it was at a loss as to what to do. Spy photographs showed a pre-production version of the car with a long whip-style antenna on its rear fender. After what GM called "*an outcry among Camaro enthusiasts*," the company decided to rethink the antenna. But how?

On hardtop Camaros, the antenna is integrated into the rear windshield, but given the disappearing nature of this car's roof, that wasn't possible on the convertible. So GM turned to two antenna engineers -- Don Hibbard, W8DBH, and Gregg Kittinger -- who were tasked with doing what some thought was impossible: concealing the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's windows.

(Here is a link to a video showing the antenna)  
[http://reviews.cnet.com/8301-13746\\_7-20026067-48.html](http://reviews.cnet.com/8301-13746_7-20026067-48.html)

(taken from the ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

## SPEAKING OF ANTENNA PROBLEMS...

What do hams do on Saturday? They fix antennas, of course. A recent repair to damage caused by a falling tree at the home of Darrel WD6BOR is documented by Dave KD6FIL.



Continued on the next page...

# ...The Finished Product!



## 2011 ACS Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## 2011 VOMARC Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS VOLUME 15 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2<sup>nd</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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Sonoma, CA 95476**

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**THE NEXT MEETING IS Wed, JANUARY 19, 2011 at THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC,  
175 1<sup>ST</sup> ST WEST, SONOMA  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2011**   Membership Dues:   \$15/year individual;      \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).  
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.  
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.